Caledon's Heritage Trees 2013

Introduction

It is our pleasure to present the second Caledon Heritage Tree book. In 2012 we completed our first book, which included nominations received from our public tree hunt. Like last year's publication, this book includes trees identified by us or that residents brought to our attention.

Trees are often called "Guardians of the Earth" and the benefits they provide us are endless. Nothing replaces either the ecosystem or energy value of a mature tree. Heritage trees are also silent witnesses to yesteryear - our town's history.

For those unfamiliar with what a heritage tree is, we include the following definition, courtesy of Paul L. Aird (Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto):

A notable specimen because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution, or other distinctive features;
A living relic that displays evidence of cultural modification by Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people, including strips of bark or knot-free wood removed, test hole cut to determine soundness, furrows cut to collect pitch or sap, or blazes to mark a trail;
A prominent community landmark;
A specimen associated with a historic person, place, event or period;
A representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation;
A tree associated with local folklore, myths, legends or traditions;
A specimen identified by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.

Aird, Paul 2005. Forestry Chronicle 81(4) July/August 2005 pp 593
Website: http://www.treesontario.ca/programs/index.php/ht_def

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading our stories and sharing our passion about this aspect of Caledon's heritage. If there is anything you wish to add to our stories, or if there is a heritage tree that you're just waiting to tell us about, please send an email to Heritage Caledon:
heritage.agenda@caledon.ca
Attn: Landmark Tree Committee.

Please note: Comments made after the leaf symbol ( )are those of our committee members, who confirmed tree species and measurements. Measurements of each tree were made at the standard DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) of 1.2 metres from the ground. We have not taken steps to confirm the age of these trees, but rely on the stories that are told about them.
With respect to private property owners, we have used only the first names of our contributors and have listed their properties by Ward only. Public trees or privately owned trees easily seen from the road are identified by addresses.
Heritage Caledon - Landmark Tree Committee (Dec 2013)

Species: Shagbark Hickory
Location: Ward Four
Nominated by: Paul and Betty (as told to Heritage Caledon)

In the early 1800s, James Wilson immigrated from England and was granted 300 acres by the Crown. The acreage (Lot 21 in Concessions 2 and 3 and the west half of the next concession) stretched along the north side of Old Church Road from Innis Lake Road to Centreville Creek Road. In 1839 James purchased the Wilson/Anderson 'string hundred' (1000 feet wide from concession to concession) farm for his son William, from the Dexter family for 500 Pounds Sterling. The Dexters had purchased the land from the Slott family, who had received the Crown patent.

The Wilson's descendants have lived on the Wilson/Anderson land ever since. William is Paul's great, great, great grandfather on his mother's side. At that time in Caledon there were three William Wilsons who all married women named Mary, which certainly must have created confusion.

Part of the farmhouse the family lives in today is the original home built in 1840 using a typical post and beam construction. An addition to accomodate our modern lifestyle has increased the home's square footage and updated the utilities. The family has taken the time and effort to refinish and expose the original farmhouse's ceiling beams, as a tribute to their forefathers' hard work and the heritage of the home. Paul told us his great aunt haunted the home for many years, until the most recent renovation which included opening the stairwell was completed.

In the treeline north of the home, between two fields and well hidden from the road, stands one of Caledon's few known shag bark hickory trees (only seven have been identified in Caledon). This tree clump has four trunks and it is not known whether it was four separate seeds or whether it was one nut that had four shoots. Three of the trunks are a substantial size, while the fourth is quite small.

Hickory trees are of the *Juglandaceae* family, the same family as walnut trees. They are difficult to transplant because of their long tap root. The tree grows slowly and its wood is heavy, hard and tough. It has been used in tools that require a strong wood such as axes. Shagbark hickories are known for their unique dark grey peeling shaggy bark, which comes off in long strips, and their beautiful golden yellow fall color.

This tree clump is well sheltered around the base by hawthorns and other vegetation growing in the row. The canopy soars proudly and majestically over the farm fields, a fitting tribute to the surrounding land.

We measured the diameters of the four trunks at 46, 51, 42 and 23 cm, respectively.

Species: Cedars and Rowan
Location: Melville White Church Cemetery
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

The Melville White Church is one of Caledon's true heritage gems. Built in 1837 by early Scottish pioneers of Presbyterian faith, this small timber frame church was a central feature of the rural community known as 'Rockside'. Its congregation, which joined the United Church of Canada in 1925, eventually disbanded in 1964 due to declining membership. Now owned by the Town of Caledon, the church was lovingly restored by the Belfountain Heritage Society and is used as a public arts and culture venue.

The adjacent cemetery was in use from the mid-1800s until 2006. Rows of headstones carved with the names of Rockside's pioneer families stand as sentinels, quiet witnesses to each day as our present turns into the past. Intriguingly, some of the cemetery's historic plantings reflect the broader cultural traditions and Celtic folklore of those buried there beyond the strictures of their Presbyterian faith.

The first photo that follows is of a rowan tree. This tree has many names including mountain ash. It is a member of the *Rosaceae* or Rose family and was a sacred tree to the Scots. The rowan tree, believed to be able to connect the realms of above and below, often stood at both the geographical and sacred centre of a place. Important rituals such as the crowning of a king were performed under the tree, as it gave kings the authority of the "other world" as well as this one. Rowan was also the clan badge of the Malcolms and McLachlans, and the surnames Mac Cairthin and MacCarthy come from the old Gaelic word for rowan and literally mean "Son of the Rowan". There were strong taboos in the Highlands against the use of any part of the tree save the berries, except for ritual purposes.

The sign of the pentagram is clearly visible at the base of the tree's berries. In the past this was a sign of protection and it was believed that rowan wood negated the power of witches. Throughout history, in Scotland, rowan wood was often kept in the house as a protective charm.

In Britain, rowan twigs were used as defensive charms – typically in the form of an equal armed cross that was held together with red thread. It was said, "Rowan tree and red thread - Leave the witches all in dread".

In Wales, it is reputed that a rowan tree is found in every cemetery. It was believed that the tree deterred diabolical spirits and negative forces from bothering the dead, because they were allergic to it. The rowan tree has been significant to the Druids, Celts, Irish and Romans.

The second symbolic planting is the cedar tree. These tall and gracious evergreen trees surround the Melville White Church cemetery. Cedars remain green year round, symbolizing rebirth or eternal life.

Our last but not least symbolic plants are the two cypress cedars. These plants were used in funeral rituals dating back to Egyptian and Roman times. The Egyptians used cypress wood to entomb their mummies and Roman mourners carried its branches at funerals as a sign of respect. That species of cypress was the stiletto-like Italian tree, not the unruly conifers that grow in our climate. Yet, for Christians, the cypress is considered to encompass a universal symbol of Heaven's calling.

The trees and flowers planted by the families who have loved ones that peacefully lie here enhance the beauty of the Melville White Church cemetery. Whether they are symbolic of cultural beliefs or the deceased's favourite floras, they give us the opportunity to let our imagination wander and to enjoy their beauty.

Species: Red Oak

Location: West side of Chinguacousy just south of King Street

Nominated by: Millie Wilkinson

The Wilkinson family have been connected to the 100 acre parcel of land at the southwest corner of Chinguacousy and King St since at least 1870 when Allan McQuarrie married Ann Wilkinson. In 1940 the land was sold to her grand nephew, Wilbert Wilkinson. The land then passed to his son, Bill Wilkinson (married to Millie) and was then deeded to their son, John Wilkinson, who currently farms the property as a fourth generation owner.

The Wilkinsons were very involved in the Caledon community. The men raised dairy herds and farmed the land. Bill worked as a 'fence viewer' for the Town. Their volunteer activities included serving on the Boston Mills Cemetery Board and as stewards of the Cheltenham United Church. Bill was a volunteer fireman, and now John is also a volunteer fireman, and is serving on the cemetery board. His wife Deb works at the Cheltenham post office and general store and is a volunteer in the church.

It was related to us that this was the only oak tree in a row of sugar maples that was planted well over 100 years ago, around the perimeter of the farm as a windbreak and to provide shade for the cattle; west along King St and south along Chinguacousy Rd. The sugar maples were regularly tapped for syrup. The sugar maples all eventually died from road widening, ditching and environmental elements, leaving this oak to stand majestically on the side of the road. Over the years, the story has been handed down that as the oak tree grew, it was growing too close to a barbed wire fence and a strand of the barbed wire became embedded in the trunk of the tree. This was finally noticed when the fence was removed, but by then the wire had become too embedded to remove, so it was left there. Now, the barbed wire has disappeared into the centre of the oak tree.

We measured the oak and found it to have a diameter of 73 cm. While the tree appears to be a bit short for its age, the sugar maple located at the southeast corner of the acreage is short as well.

Species: Sugar Maples
Location: Corner of Kennedy Road and The Grange Sideroad
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

The beautiful maple trees that surround this heritage building were reportedly planted by the school children in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

An excerpt from Daily Mail Online states: "Victoria's reign had been a period of extraordinary inventiveness. Railways, steamships, the telegraph, the camera, the bicycle, anesthetics, antiseptics, the telephone and, most recently, the motor car contributed to an optimistic faith in mankind's capacity to understand nature and master the environment."

In Caledon it is noted that the land the schoolhouse sits on was purchased in 1842 from James McDevitt. The school served the children of the village of Silver Creek and was likely built circa 1850. It was known as School Section Number Three (S.S. #3) of Caledon Township. The original school is believed to have been of log or frame construction, which reportedly burned down in the early 1860s. When the owners of the existing brick structure (built in 1865) completed renovations, they discovered randomly placed scorched timbers in the walls. These are believed to have been salvaged from the original structure.

Peel Archives currently store the school's daily attendance and other records from 1910 to 1963. The school closed that year and students were bussed to Caledon Central Public School. The structure is now a private dwelling and was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by Heritage Caledon in 1985.

Species: Roadside Sugar Maples
Location: Kennedy, McLaughlin other Caledon sideroads
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

We revel in the splendor of the magnificent old sugar maples that line many of the sideroads in Caledon. They are glorious and bring a certain peacefulness in all four seasons. The sugar maple, which can live to well over 200 years, is an important species to the ecology of many forests in North America. They are among the most shade tolerant of large deciduous trees. The sugar maple is considered Canada's national tree, as its leaf is featured on our flag.
Sugar maples are valued for their wood and their syrup. "Sugaring off" was an important part of pioneer culture, and continues to be a Canadian spring tradition. Sap is collected in buckets and boiled down to make syrup. It is said Canada produces 80% of the world's maple syrup.
The many maples along our roads were likely planted in the late 1800s. In the latter part of the century, there was considerable concern about the large tracts of forests that had been cleared to make way for agricultural land. This deforestation contributed to erosion and the decline of water volume in many streams. As a result, some areas of Ontario were referred to as 'dust bowls'. Some mills that relied on water for power found they could no longer efficiently operate.

The provincial government established a department known as the 'Clerk of Forestry' and reforestation initiatives such as 'Arbor Day', *The Tree Act of 1871* and the *Ontario Tree Planting Act of 1883* (which superseded the 1871 Act) were put in place. These Acts paid landowners twenty-five cents for each tree planted along a highway or on boundary lines between farms. The 1883 Act protected the trees from injury or removal except where approval was given by Council. This Act was repealed just before the turn of the century as it was found that less than 10% of the money had been spent and few municipalities availed themselves of the provisions.

We are fortunate in Caledon that a number of landowners took advantage of the above Acts. Many travellers and their horses along the side roads must have been appreciative of the wind breaks, shade and other benefits that these trees provided.

Many roadside sugar maples have died as the result of our modern lifestyle needs such as road widening, ditching, winter chemical use and installation of utilities. Others have died from the effects of climate changes (including drought, wind or ice storms) or simply from old age. However, we are fortunate that many still remain. Good examples of sugar maples can be found along McLaughlin Road and Kennedy Road. In early spring, watch for buckets hanging on some of the trees as local residents continue the tradition of 'sugaring off'.

Species: Osage Orange Hedge

Location: Torbram Road - west side - north of School Road

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

This hedge is the only one of its kind in Caledon. It was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by Heritage Caledon in 1999.

The Designation Report Criteria is as follows:

"Extensive research over many years has not established exactly how this particular hedge came to be planted. The function of such hedges (usually well trimmed, and deliberately dense) in historic Canada is well understood. They were planted to provide a windbreak, and were described as a 'living fence' that served adequately to keep farm animals in (and other people's out). Difficult to date, the subject hedge was probably planted 100 plus years ago by the Robinson family who had a house on their String 100 acres in 1859 (North half, Lot 23, Conc 6 EHS former Township of Chinguacousy).

The lower string hundred had been owned by the Johnsons, but by 1877 it was the property of Nicholas Hewson. Although the two lots were subsequently merged and owned by the Gardhouses, and then a group of new Canadians in the 1980s all have conspired to preserve the hedge more by benevolent neglect then active conservation. It is again owned by the Hewson family in 1998, who appreciate it as a remnant hedge from the family's former holding.

A North American native species that grows as far south as Texas, the small trees were known to native peoples as a supple wood suitable for bows, spears, arrow shafts and the fruit as a dye. The fruit is absolutely inedible although it exactly resembles a green orange. The subject hedge does not bear fruit annually although it occasionally has a bumper crop. In the fall 1998 there are oranges on the trees. This hedge is growing outside of its usual climatic zone.

Photo of Osage Orange fruit
Photo courtesy of Don Scallen and used with permission

If allowed to grow naturally, as it does prolifically in Carolinian Canada (southwestern Ontario), the tree again resembles ordinary orange trees and the leaves, although not as stiff and shiny, are the same shape (the difference may be climatic). The tree also bears long sharp thorns, best described as treacherous. The genus of the tree is of the Mulberry family.

There is a tradition in southwestern Ontario, where the hedges were prolific that itinerant farm workers would carry a bag of the "oranges" with them and as an added inducements for employment would offer to plant a "living fence" as the first chore. This had the added attraction, as the active farming seasons rolled around each year, to provide another employment incentive as the worker came back and provided care, and pruning of the hedge. Itinerant workers were only recorded if they happened to be on the farm each decade, on the day the Census taker called. Consequently Caledon's chances of pinpointing who planted the hedge and when, are remote. The value and worth of this unusual cultural/natural feature is that from a reported five such hedges in Peel (plus one in King Township, York) this is the only survivor. Rarity enhances the value and makes it a prime candidate for heritage designation even though it is accepted that nature and age and environmental hazards will eventually bring the life of the hedge to an end."

From an article written by Don Scallen for In the Hills magazine in Fall 2011, we learn:

"That when Europeans first settled North America, osage orange trees grew only in parts of present day Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, although fossil records show that the trees once grew naturally as far north as Ontario. Speculation is that the osage orange was pushed south by glaciers during the last ice age. Once the glaciers receded, the tree did not repopulate the north as the wild horses, mammoths and mastodons became extinct and stopped dispersing the seeds."

Species: Cultivated cut leaf Weeping Birch
Location: 12506 Heart Lake Road
Nominated by: Anne Livingstone (as told to Heritage Caledon)

When Anne moved to her farm 61 years ago, she was delighted to find a beautiful young weeping birch tree in the front yard of her home. Anne is passionate about trees and plants a few different species each year on her property.

Anne grew up in Toronto, attending high school in Weston together with a number of students who were bussed in from the rural areas north of Highway 7. Some of the 'country' students befriended Anne, and she occasionally attended the monthly dances in a one- room school house in Pine Grove, currently part of Vaughan. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel destroyed a number of this hamlet's buildings as well as its mill dam. One flour mill survived and is believed to have been the last mill that operated on the Humber River, until 2008 when it was destroyed by fire.

At one of the dances, Anne missed her bus and accepted a ride back to the city from Aubrey, a farmer's son, whom she eventually married. His brother and wife had settled on a farm on Heart Lake Rd. In 1952, when the property just north of their home came up for sale Anne and Aubrey purchased it and 'never looked back'. They purchased the 100 acre farm to the west in 1960 and purchased adjacent farms as they came up for sale, to expand their operation and provide for their growing family. Their sons' own homes were eventually located on adjoining acreage, and the family was able to travel between the homes using private laneways between the properties.

Until 1995, the family managed a dairy herd in addition to cropping the land. For a few years thereafter, they raised beef cattle. In 2002 they started Broadway Farm's Market, a strong supporter of the 'buy local, eat local' movement.

The weeping birch was about 10 years old when the Livingstons moved here in 1952 and it is not known who planted it. The birch is well sheltered from the winds by the home. Its trunk reaches for the sky and its white bark and foliage is 'a feast of the eyes'.

We measured the diameter at 51 cm. We believe the tree to be a cut leaf birch of a cultivated variety.

Species: Shagbark Hickory
Location: Johnston Sports Field - Caledon
Nominated by: Paul and Betty (as told to Heritage Caledon)

In 1944 Paul's grandparents purchased 125 acres, which they continuously farmed until a few years ago. At that time, Town of Caledon purchased most of the land, and is currently transforming it into sports fields. Phase one is complete and phase two is scheduled to start in 2015.

In a fence line bordering the original pasture, the family often passed a nut producing tree when they brought the cattle in for milking. They collected the nuts, smashed them open and ate them, a nice treat after a hard days work. The tree is identified as a shagbark hickory, with three healthy trunks that extend from the ground.

Shagbark hickories can adapt to different soils, but prefer a rich moist ground and a sunny location. They grow in the Carolinian forest regions that stretch along the St. Lawrence River, in southern Ontario and into Quebec. Their life expectancy is about 200 years and they can attain a height of 25 metres or more.

Nuts from the hickory are said to be sweet and the favourite food of a number of mammals including squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, bears and foxes. First Nations people are said to have used the nuts for food, and the wood for smoking meat, making bows and other tools. It is believed the word "hickory" comes from the Algonquian word *pawchoiccora*. Trees can start producing nuts as early as the age of 10, but large quantities are not produced until after the age of 40.

The scientific name for this tree is *Carya ovata*. It is a smaller cousin of the rare Shellbark Hickory, or *Carya laciniosa*, whose name is derived from the Latin word lacinia, meaning 'cut in shreds' which refers to the the mature bark that hangs in long shaggy strips on the trunk of both trees.

Shagbark hickories are quite rare in Caledon and to date only seven have been identified by us. This particular tree is unique in that it has three separate trunks. It is not known whether the seedlings started from three separate nuts, or if it was originally one tree that had three shoots.

We measured this tree clump and found the trunks to be 41, 33 and 37 cm in diameter. It had a significant amount of fruit on it, possibly an indication that the winter will be long and cold.

Species: Lilac Thicket

Location: NW corner of Mayfield and Heart Lake Road

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

In early spring, we travelled along Mayfield Road and noticed a beautiful piece of farmland on the northwest corner of Heart Lake Road. Fresh ploughed furrows had created a peaceful zen-like design on the undulating land. Walking along the fence westward from the corner, the land gently rises above the road. Located on this rise, just a short distance from the fence and surrounded by rich brown fields, is the partial remains of an old farmstead. We are told the original barn foundation still exists; but it was not visible from our viewpoint. What was visible however, was a large thicket of mature lilac bushes that were in full bloom. In the gentle breeze, their heady scent mingled with the earthy essence of the freshly ploughed land.

This piece of land is known by many as the Pawley farm and we note from historical records that the Pawley family purchased the property from the Puckering family in the early 1900s. The earliest recorded owner was an Eleanor McMicking who was granted the full 200 acre parcel from the Crown in 1831. In 1834 the east half of the acreage was sold to a Neil McEachern and the property remained in that family until the late 1800s. The 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Peel confirms Neil's ownership, and a home and orchard in what appears to be the same location as the lilacs. Several tall trees tower over the lilacs, possible planted by one of the settlers for shade.

It is not known who planted the lilacs, but their fragrance and beauty can be enjoyed from the fence line. As with most land in this stretch along Mayfield, we expect these fields will eventually succumb to urban sprawl.

Species: Elm

Location: In the middle of the intersection of Mayfield and Gore Roads

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

The King William or King Billy tree is likely one of the most famous trees in Caledon. Named by Captain Odlum, it was known as an important meeting place for both Orangeman and locals. The Odlum family were among Brampton's earliest settlers and were granted 1000 acres in what was originally Toronto Gore region. Edward Odlum's home, built circa 1862, still stands just southeast of the Mayfield and Gore Road intersection and is one of Peel Region's impressive heritage homes. The existing home replaced an original log cabin. Captain Odlum is remembered for naming the community of Tullamore after his birthplace in Ireland and naming this majestic elm tree.

George Tavender's *From this Year Hence* tells us the following about this elm:

"Named after William of Orange by Captain Abraham Odlum, a veteran of the Peninsular War, who came to Canada about 1835 and was the first settler on lot 17, concession 8, Gore of Toronto, N.D. Two of his ancestors had crossed with William to Ireland in 1690 and their descendants continued in the British Army in an unbroken line".

There are two versions of how the tree received its name. The first is that it was planted by Odlum as a memorial to King William of Orange and King William IV. The second and more colorful story is how Odlum stumbled home one dark night after partying with friends in Tullamore. Unable to find his house, he settled for the night against a tree. In the morning he discovered he was in fact close to his home. Thankful for the tree's protection, he named it after the King. Allegedly, he christened it with the contents of a flask of whiskey.

Some years later the tree was going to be cut down because it stood in the middle of the cross-roads. Odlum's son covered its trunk with nails from the ground to the height of a man's head, saying to his father,

"No one will ever cut that tree down."

It is reported this magnificent and illustrious elm was hit by lightning in 1940. It slowly deteriorated and came down in a 1947 ice storm. There are some in Caledon's heritage circles who either recall visiting this famous tree when they were young children, or remember stories their parents told them about it.

THE KING WILLIAM TREE
Odlum, John and William Carberry, Thomas Wharram

The Perkins Bull collection holds the painting of this elm.

King William's Tree, W. Firth MacGregor, painted for the Perkins Bull Collection. Reprinted from The Perkins Bull Collection; Peel Pictures Given by The Artists, 1934. Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives.

Species: Flowering Crab and Maple
Location: 2741 Olde Baseline Rd and Caledon Central School
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

The early hours of Mother's Day in 1993 changed the lives of many Caledon residents forever. Eight young people between the ages of 16 and 21 lost their lives in an horrific three-car crash on the Forks of the Credit Road: Bill Benford, Rachael Dean, Damien deRonde, Ryan and Mark Parsons in one car, and Melissa Doucette, William (Billy) Pawlic and Michael Ufton in the other.

Some of these young people had attended an invitation-only "bush party", gathering to enjoy the evening and reconnect with each other before their lives became busy with exams and summer jobs. The host had ensured that his guests knew they could spend the night if they felt they could not safely drive. Tragically, one carload drove away in the early morning hours.

Another group of young people were also enjoying a weekend night out, driving around in Caledon, joyriding the rolling hills, bends and curves of the Forks Road.

The five young people in one car were speeding westbound and passed another car at the top of a hill on The Forks of the Credit Road. It crashed head on into the eastbound car with the other five young people, who were also driving at a high speed. The end result was something no-one in the community wanted to hear about and most still remember as a moment frozen in time. Instantly, eight lives were lost in a horrific fiery crash.

Three occupants from the car that was passed were able to pull several young people out of the eastbound car and two survived. They were hailed as heroes by the police and received civilian citations.

The community rallied together in grief, establishing at least three trust funds, and two noteworthy actions were taken to help ensure such tragedies would not happen again.

First, the Mother's Day crash laid the foundation for the Road Watch program. Recognizing a need for more safety on our roads, local citizens working with police were encouraged to report those driving irresponsibly with the goal of reducing accidents, thus saving lives. The program has been adopted by many communities across Canada. More information on Road Watch can be found at: http://www.roadwatch.ca .

Second, after the accident, a memorial tree planting along Caledon's west end roads took place, inspired by a group of local residents who knew the families, and had gathered lilacs from the side of the road for the many funeral ceremonies.

Anne, a Caledon resident and friend of one of the families, felt that a planting of spring flowering shrubs along the roadside would be a nice commemoration of the lives lost and would help in the healing process. The group canvassed nurseries for their leftover stock in the fall of 1993 and teens were recruited to assist with the planting. Flowering crabapple, mountain ash, lilac, serviceberry and such were planted in front of the homes of those who had a connection to the young lives lost, as well as some randomly planted along busy roads in west Caledon. Planting locations include Caledon Mountain Estates, Olde Baseline Road, Cedar Drive and Charleston Sideroad. While much of the stock died over the ensuing years, some continue to grow. We're told by Anne that as these trees and shrubs flowered in spring, it was hoped that drivers would slow down and admire their beauty.

This maple tree was planted by Caledon Central Public School in "Loving Memory of Mark Parsons, Ryan Parsons and Damien deRonde".

These memorial flowering crabapples are located in front of 2741 Olde Baseline Road. Their spectacular spring blossoms most certainly slow traffic and remind us each spring of eight young lives lost on Mother's Day in 1993.

We would like to expand our nomination and include other plantings relating to this piece of Caledon's history. If you are aware of any such shrubs and trees, please contact us.

Species: Elm

Location: South side of Charleston Sdrd east of St. Andrews Rd.

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

Henry the Elm received three individual nominations during our 2012 public tree hunt. The Town is currently in the process of designating Henry under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. While completing our research for the designation, we realized that some information reported last year regarding land ownership was inaccurate. As such, we have included Henry in this booklet with the correct history.

The 1859 Tremaine Map shows this original 150 acre property was owned by John Shannon. At some point ownership was transferred to William Shannon as indicated on the Peel Historical Atlas of 1877. This Atlas confirmed that a home and orchard were located on 15th Sideroad, close to a curve in the road, which we note was later straightened out and moved westward. The William Perkins Bull collection confirms that William Shannon married a Miss Henry, had 3 daughters and moved to western Canada in 1878.

It is likely that Miss Henry was the daughter of one of Shannon's neighbours. Alex Henry received a patent from the Crown in 1853 and owned the adjacent 50 acres to the east that front the west side of Mountainview Road. A Rob Henry owned 100 acres south of the Shannon property and James Henry owned acreage on the east side of Mountainview. On the north side of Charleston, two Henrys each owned 25 acre parcels of land.

John Hassard, a hotel keeper in Caledon East, purchased the Shannon property in 1879, but reportedly never lived there. The farm was sold to a Donald McQuarrie in 1881, and subsequently to Thomas McQuarrie in 1886. William Hansford purchased the land in October 1915 and the property remained in that family for three generations.

The existing home is believed to have been built in the 1870s, and is likely the second dwelling on the property. Heritage Caledon was told by Howard Hansford that the home is built out of grout, a mixture of gravel, lime, and water. The mixture was poured into a form, hardened and became the home's exterior walls. Once complete, the walls are covered with stucco to finish them. The original bank barn on the property blew down in a hurricane in 1899. It was eventually replaced with a steel-clad barn in 1915, erected by William Hansford shortly after he took over the farm.

William had emigrated from England and originally settled in the Strathroy area (London District). William died in 1930 and his wife Margaret passed away in 1936. Their son, George Phillip Hansford, inherited the farm in 1937, and later passed it on to his own son, Howard. Howard was born in 1934. He clearly recalls that there was an entire row of large elms located along the south side of Charleston Sideroad east of St. Andrews Road. Based on Howard's recollection, we estimate the elms were planted in the late 1800s or early 1900s, possibly by the McQuarrie family. In the mid-1960s Dutch Elm Disease (DED) spread to southern Ontario and the entire row of elms, with the exception of Henry, died. Henry was the smallest and scrawniest of the trees and Howard thought it would never survive.

Melville and Olive Dacres bought this land, now called Green Acre Farms, in 1979 and moved here in August 1980. Over time some acreage has been severed and the farm property now comprises 96 acres. Melville passed away in 2004, but Olive continues to live in the farmhouse.

The history of how this elm received its name has not been fully determined. One theory is that it was named after the Henry family who farmed many acres in the vicinity in the nineteenth century. However, based on the age of the elm, and the fact that it survived the ravages of DED, we suspect that it was named more recently in honour of the late Henry Kock, a noted interpretive horticulturist and eco-activist who founded the Elm Recovery Project for the University of Guelph. Kock was born near Sarnia and grew up working in his family's nursery business. He graduated from the University of Guelph in 1977 with a BSc(Agr) in Horticulture, and stayed connected to the University until his premature death in 2005.

Through the Elm Recovery Project, Kock collected scions from elm trees that survived DED and established a breeding program, with the goal to eventually restore DED tolerant elm trees. We have been told by an acquaintance of Howard Hansford that Henry Kock had approached him to obtain a sample of his sole surviving elm, which How-

ard allegedly was not keen on providing. Whether or not the elm was eventually included in the study has not been confirmed.

Henry the Elm's popularity and fame is recognized by many Caledon residents. The Dacres family tells us that many people stop on the road to photograph the tree. There was once a geocache location at its base. Henry is included on the Caledon Community Map: http://www.caledoncommunitymap.org/index.php .

In 2011, Henry the Elm was the subject of local Inglewood artist Lucille Weber's submission to Heritage Caledon's 35th anniversary art show 'Time Frame'. Her painting, entitled 'Henry', can be viewed at http://www.lucilleweber.com/gallery/encaustics/ . Later that same year, naturalist Don Scallen included the elm in his article *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*, published in the fall edition of *In the Hills* magazine.

Its rarity as a sole surviving elm and notable landmark status make Henry a prime candidate for heritage designation. While we are aware that age, environmental hazards, and natural events will all affect the life of this tree, we sincerely wish to honour and celebrate such a notable specimen.

Species:	Gingko Biloba
Location:	Ward One
Nominated by:	Heritage Caledon

It has been said that the oldest living organism on earth are trees. Fossil evidence confirms that these adaptable woody perennial plants existed over 65 million years ago. The Daily Mail online tells us that this was just about the time a trillion ton asteroid, measuring about 10 km across collided with our earth, wiping out not only dinosaurs, but most other life on earth.

Our gentle earth eventually recovered and with warm sunshine and rain, plant life regenerated. There is one species, said to be a 'sole survivor' of an ancient group of trees and often referred to as a 'living fossil', that still exists today.

The Ginkgo tree, sometimes referred to as a 'maidenhair tree', has virtually remained unchanged over the millions of years. The oldest recorded specimen is reportedly over 3500 years old. Research explains that the Gingko tree is recognized as the only living bridge between ferns and conifers or between the higher and lower plants. While both males and females produce fruit, the fruit of male trees are preferred because the fruit from female trees smells rancid.

Ginkgo trees are native to China, and were traditionally planted in temple gardens in both Japan and China where they have a long history of cultural importance. The species is revered as it is believed Confucius sat under a Gingko when giving his teaching. The leaves are also used in herbal remedies for cognitive diseases.

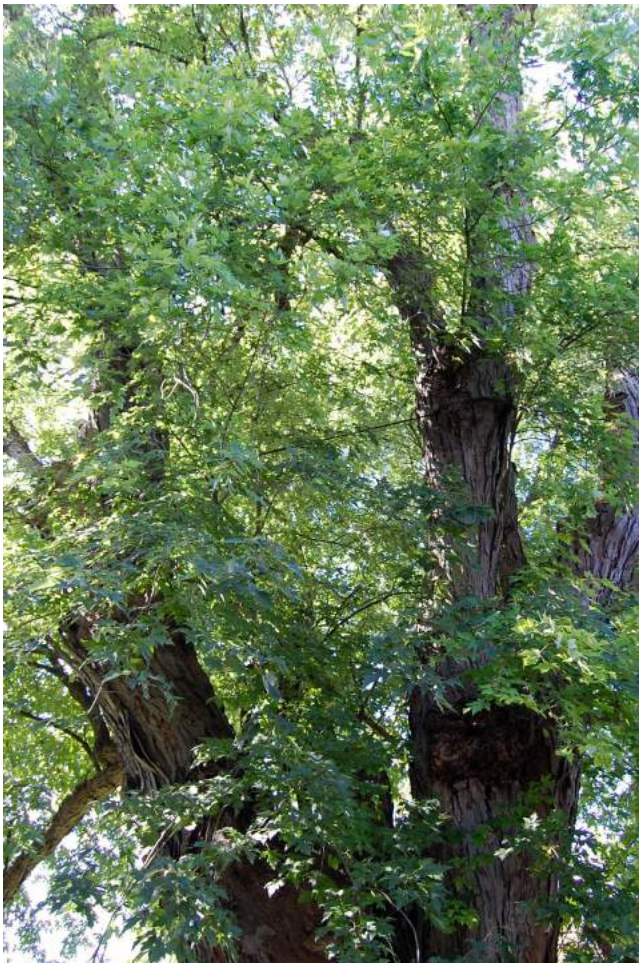
The leaves are fan-shaped and include two or more distinct lobes. They often but not necessarily change to a beautiful gold colour in the fall. An interesting fact about the tree is that it loses all its leaves in a single day in the fall. Gingko leaves are different than the traditional maple or oak leaves, in that they have a leathery texture, and require some 'elbow grease' to rake and bag.

It is said that many of the trees in the wild have succumbed to deforestation and long-lived specimens are primarily found in cultivated gardens. This species is definitely not part of those found in either the Carolinian or Great Lakes/St.Lawrence forest regions that cover Caledon. However, Caledon is proudly home to a majestic Gingko tree, located in Ward One.

It is believed that the original owner of the home acquired this seedling either directly or through friends who attended the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. Small specimens were available from the Japanese exhibit in that year. The seedling was planted on the south side of the home, where it is well sheltered. The current residents dearly love their tree and with tender loving care hope it lives for many more years.

Photographs courtesy of homeowner

Species: Silver Maple
Location: Ward Four
Nominated by: Art and Lois (as told to Heritage Caledon)



Hidden behind roadside trees is a home built in 1840 for Eli Roadhouse, who operated a blacksmith shop at the corner of the property. Some years later, when Eli married a Clark, the Roadhouse family moved to the north hill of Caledon East where they farmed and Eli continued working as a blacksmith.

In 1942, Art's uncle purchased this property, sold it to his father, and it was subsequently purchased by Art and Lois in 1964, just prior to their marriage in 1965. They moved in, raised their children here and continue to reside in the home.

Art, a mechanic by trade, is a lifelong resident of the concession as he was raised on his family's farm just north of their home. Lois was raised on a farm where the Wellness Centre now stands in Bolton.

Silver maples, *Acer saccharinum*, are a fast growing tree of the genus *Acer*. Their leaves are light green on top and silvery-white beneath, with long palmate lobes. On a windy day the tree has a 'silver' look, as the leaves turn sideways. The tree's sap is considered only half as sweet as that of its cousin the sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*.

Photos taken of the home in 1943 show this significant large silver maple. The well-loved tree is massive and has six limbs that each reach to the sky. A playhouse for the children was at one time a great feature and created many heartwarming family memories. The playhouse had a trapdoor which the girls used to stand on to lock out their brother. The children were determined that the playhouse should have electricity of its own, but that never happened. The tree's canopy cools the home in summer and provides welcome shade from the hot sun when sitting outside.

It is not uncommon for the limbs of silver maples to develop hollows and this tree has several, each with its own unique story. A large bee colony lives in one and we viewed the bees happily flying in and out of their home. The arborist who trims and maintains the maple always waits until the fall, when hibernation sets in. Another hollow was cemented to prevent the cat from climbing in one more time to have yet another litter of kittens.

We measured the tree and its diameter is 143 cm. The tree has not been dated, but we would not be surprised if it was planted by Eli, when he lived here in the 1800s.

Species: Elm
Location: Main Street, Coulterville
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

Landowners and community groups are often credited as being the biggest stewards of protecting and conserving both rural and urban forests. One outstanding example is the preservation of these two multi-trunked elm tree clumps.

The Coulter family settled on 100 acres at the northeast corner of Charleston Sideroad and Main Street in the latter part of the 1800s. In 1890 they built a beautiful two storey red brick Victorian home north of the corner. Coulterville was the name given to the settlement many years ago, but it was after 1976 that the name was actually approved for use on official maps.

The Caledon Community map notes: "In the 1930s an individual reported that Bob Coulter's community garden party in 1928 attracted more than 1000 guests and put Coulterville permanently on the map."

When cultivating the land, stones were collected and a 'dry stack' stone wall was built on the front of the property along Main Street and also running east from the road to the original drive shed and farm lane.

Walls have been made using a dry stone method for hundreds of years. No mortar is used; instead rock chips and fragments are packed into spaces between larger stones. They and gravity hold the wall up. In this wall, thin pieces of split cedar shingles are used to level the stones. Gradually over 100 years, the Coulter's wall started to deteriorate.

During that time the property was severed and two homes were built between the original homestead and Charleston Sideroad to the south.

The owners of the adjoining property have rebuilt the portion of the stone wall situated in front of their home, using the original design. Additional stones from the east wall were used to slightly increase the width and height of the wall.

We are told that a row of maples once grew along the stone wall. Two beautiful elm tree clumps, about fifty years old, likely planted 'by mother nature' remain and are flourishing. The clump closest to the road appears to have grown right out of the wall. Loath to remove these healthy trees, the wall was designed to go around the tree when it was rebuilt.

In Caledon, we are privileged to have several fine examples of the resurgence of the ancient art of building with dry stone, tying together the talents and skill of both the masons who immigrated many years ago and those that live today. We are very fortunate there are residents who are good stewards of our beautiful trees and ensure that they are included in a landscape design rather than a wood pile.

Species: Black Walnut
Location: Ward One
Nominated by: Shirley (as told to Heritage Caledon)

Orval Baxter was born on Lot 7, 4th line EHS in 1910. His parents, John and Sarah were married in 1896 and farmed land on the east side of the concession, where they lived and raised their six children in a log home. In 1936 Orval married Edna Mercer and bought 200 acres (string 100s) located between the 4th and 5th lines EHS, just north of his parents' farm.

In the early 1900s the previous owner, John Bracken had replaced the original old log house with a lovely two storey, 6 bedroom, red brick home. The log house was relocated on the property and used as a pig pen for many years. Orval and Edna farmed the land and in later years Orval bred and raced standard bred horses. They had two children, Shirley and Robert. Orval and Edna enjoyed dancing, often travelling many miles by horse-drawn sleigh in winter. Orval was a square dance caller and called at many dances in the area.

While the home is the only building remaining, Shirley recalls an L-shaped barn and four log outbuildings forming the barn complex behind the house. Orval gave Bob and Shirley 5 acres off the farm in the 1970s where they built a home and raised their three children, Hellen, Rob and Julie, and where they continue to reside. The remainder of the farm was eventually sold.

In front of the farmhouse stands a large black walnut tree that Shirley remembers as always having been there. Edna collected the walnuts each year, dried them and used them in her baking. Shirley recalls her mother's hands being stained by the walnut sap. In the 1970s the Baxters were offered $15,000 for the tree by a person who made gun stocks. The offer was declined.

Fortunately, the Baxters turned down the above offer. The walnut tree is magnificent with a tall straight trunk before the branches start. It is located on a slope and its diameter measures 114 cm on the high side and 117 cm on the lower side. It is sheltered from the winds by the home and has no other trees around it to compete for water and nutrients. It was fully loaded with walnuts, which Edna would no doubt have used for many delicious recipes.

Species: Bur Oak
Location: 91 King Street West, Bolton
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

In 1822 George Bolton built the first grist mill with the help of his relative James Bolton in the settlement of Bolton Mills, now called Bolton. The village was incorporated in 1872, at which time Council ordered an updated survey and map of the village. In the centre of town near King and Queen Streets, suburban housing started and what is now the historic centre of the town was developed. From the demolition of an early home in Bolton, Heritage Caledon acquired a map of Bolton dated 1854, which is believed to be the oldest known map of the area in existence. It can be viewed here: http://www.caledon.ca/en/explore/maps-explore.asp .

Many beautiful old homes grace the downtown Bolton area. These homes are valued for their architectural beauty and contribution to the heritage of this area of Caledon. Early residents took pride in their properties and had the foresight to landscape with trees. Trees are generally planted with a specific purpose in mind, often to provide a feature, shade, a windbreak, a natural barrier or to commemorate an individual.

On the north side of King Street just west of Nancy Street are two large bur oaks. There is a story in heritage circles that the owners of this property had two sons who joined the army and went to Europe to fight in World War I. The story explains that the owners planted the trees either as a tribute or a memorial in honour of their beloved sons.

The story is somewhat of a mystery, as none of the names we have been given for former owners/residents appear to have had sons who fought in the war. Nevertheless, the trees are magnificent and are worthy of being included in our database. On the assumption they were planted in the early part of the 20th century they have stood by and watched the many changes in the village of Bolton throughout the years including road paving and the building of sidewalks, water, sewer, and utility lines. The trees appear to be in good health, and it is our fervent hope that as more changes take place along King St., care will be taken to ensure these trees and their roots remain undamaged for many more years.

Species: Horsechestnut and Pear

Location: Ward Four

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon (as told to us by Jim and Paul)

This home and surrounding farmland was purchased by Jim's father (Paul's grandfather) in 1944 from the descendants of William Wilson, an Irishman who settled here with his family in the mid 1800s. Jim's family has owned this land for almost 70 years, and at one time three generations of the family lived there and farmed together.

In the side yard, south of the home is a grove of trees which includes at least five large horse chestnut trees and a very large old pear tree. The horsechestnut trees' diameters range from 50 to 94 cm. The trunks of the two largest trees split into two well above the ground. While it is not known when the trees were planted, we are told that they were quite large when the family moved here.

The horsechestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, also known as a 'conker' or 'buckeye' tree does not have the commercial value of the American Chestnut. In fact the horsechestnut is not from the same family as the American Chestnut, of which many were decimated as a result of blight infestation in the early 20th century. It is believed the tree's name reflects only the similarity between its seeds and the edible seeds of the chestnut.

Horsechestnuts produce large inedible seeds, which are largely shunned by wildlife due to a toxic alkaloid they contain. Notwithstanding same, the fruits and seeds have been used in preparations for centuries to treat such ailments as colds, rheumatism, sunburn, varicose veins, ulcers and phlebitis. This tree lives an average of 100 years and is valued for its large canopy.

Linda Kershaw in her book, *Trees of Ontario* notes that: "Horsechestnut is the 'spreading chestnut tree' that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote about". This reference pertains to the poem, 'The Village Blacksmith' and verse one follows:

Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

In the southwest corner of the grove stands a very old large pear tree, whose diameter is at least 65 cm. The tree continues to blossom each spring and produce a small hard fruit that is enjoyed by the birds. Paul does not recall his mother or grandmother ever using or preserving the fruit.

Species: Norway Spruce, Walnut and Ash

Location: Ferguson/Raeburn/Giles farm - NW corner of Charleston/Kennedy

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

In 1820, the Surveyor General of Lands, Upper-Canada found Archibald Ferguson "entitled to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's bounty of a Grant of the waste Lands of the Crown" for his service in the 5th Regiment Lincolnshire Militia. Records show this grant was registered in 1827 by the Province of Upper Canada. It is likely the land was fully forested and like many settlers, Ferguson started clearing it for agricultural purposes.

By 1859, records indicate that Joseph Rayburn (Raeburn) was an occupant of the acreage and in 1860 both an indenture and mortgage were registered between Rayburn and Mary Ferguson et al, who we assume was Archibald's widow. The 1877 map of the land showed a home surrounded by an orchard owned by Joseph Rayburn. In 1905 ownership was passed to Robert Rayburn through his will.

At that time, those who worked the land generally cleared it. However, they also re-planted trees for specific purposes. A row of walnut and spruce trees line the original laneway from the long gone barn to a field. These trees now form the south border of John Alexander Park. The Rayburns likely planted the beautiful large ash tree along Charleston Sideroad, which stands majestically in front of the old farmstead.

There are old and somewhat gnarled sugar maples surrounding the farmstead, likely to shade the home and also in the tree line that borders the north and west sides of the original 100 acres, likely for a wind break. Those that lived or visited the acreage believe these trees to be well over one hundred years old.

A frequent visitor of the Rayburns was Fred Bull. Fred recalls a cluster of cedar trees along Kennedy Road beside the creek (the east boundary of the acreage). Fred remembers the creek "being deep enough that there was a dam", which is hard to imagine, when one sees the small placid stream trickling through the Kennedy Road culvert. The Rayburns held picnics for their friends in this location in the mid 1930s which Fred attended as a young boy. Several cedars still stand in this area.

Fred recalls many apple trees on the property including "an orchard on the south side of the driveway - these apples were ready in August and did not last more than a few days".

The following is a quote from his oral history compiled by Fay McCrea:

"Joe Rayburn lost 13 apples trees one winter. The field above the house there, maybe an acre, was just loaded with apple trees. Bob Rayburn had an apple orchard and barrels of apples. You used to go in there in that big yard and you could circle right around and they had two apple trees about 20 or 30 feet apart and a big flower bed in between. He had a work bench under the trees on the north side of this driveway."

Fred explains that his father homesteaded on Heart Lake Road north of Charleston Sideroad, in the 1920s. Walking home from Sunday School (in Caledon Village), they would stop and visit with 'old Bob Rayburn'. Bob once gave him an apple called a pumpkin sweet, which was too big to bite on, so had to be carried home and cut up.

Bobby Raeburn, son of Josephine and Robert Raeburn was the last of that family to own the farm. He was born in 1921, never married and was buried in Caledon Cemetery.

The land was purchased by Amos and Etta Giles in May 1939. The Giles family farmed the land until it was sold to a developer who built an estate subdivision in the mid 1990s.

Pride of ownership is evident by the neat manicured lawns of the homes in this subdivision. Landscaping efforts by the residents include the planting of trees and Archibald's 'waste land' is once again becoming forested.

Species: Black Walnut

Location: SW corner of Main & Queen, Alton

Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

In our ever changing world there is something to be said for a 'constant', something unchanging in nature or something steadfast in purpose. A mountain or a landscape as an example, visible each morning when you draw open the curtains to welcome a new day, provides a degree of security to our fast pace and ever changing world.

For those who live or pass through the village of Alton, this 'constant' would be the very large, magnificent black walnut located just south of the Palmer House at the southwest corner of Main and Queen Streets.

Three massive limbs extend in different directions from the trunk, less than five feet from the ground and the circumference of the tree is well over 15 feet. In the fall, an abundant crop of walnuts drop to the ground, a harvest beyond belief for the local squirrels and likely a lot of work for the home owners. It is not known how old the tree is or whether it was planted by a previous resident or by an act of nature.

In the Town of Caledon Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory, dated March 2009 we learn the following about Alton:

> "Though no archaeological survey has yet been undertaken for the area, this river valley with its associated relatively gentle hills would have almost certainly been occupied, at least seasonally for fishing and hunting, for many centuries prior to Euro-Canadian settlement.
>
> The survey of Caledon Township was completed in 1819-1820. Thomas Russell is credited as being the area pioneer having settled with his family in 1834 on the east half of Lots 23 and 24, Concession IV. In 1837 he was joined by several other families and in just over a decade an urban node had formed around grist and saw mills erected on the banks of Shaw's Creek. By 1856 various plans of subdivision were registered and the village took on a form still recognizable today.
>
> With the opening of a store by Robert Meek, the village had become an established settlement.
>
> It was granted a post office in 1855, at which time the name Alton was chosen. By 1877 the village had three churches for the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations respectively, five stores, two hotels and a railway station and switches for the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway (TG&B). The long rapids (in Shaw's Creek, approximately 1 mile with a combined fall of about 108 feet) allowed for 8 dams which provided the head for such industries as D & L Mckinnon's flour and grist mills with four run of stone producing for export, Walter McClelland's and George Alanham's flour and grist mills, Alanham's sawmill, the King brothers' steam furniture factory as well as a tannery, axe factory and iron foundry. In the latter part of the19th century woolen mills replaced grist and flour mills as the dominant industry and it is their legacy which is most obvious today.
>
> During the great flood of 1889, the McClelland's dam burst wiping out other dams downriver and causing two deaths."

Ontario Rural Routes website tells us that the hamlet was originally called Williamstown, with the name changing to Alton, after a town in Illinois, in 1854 at the suggestion of then postmaster John Meek.

Records note that Thomas Russell purchased this property in 1847. In 1852 he sold it to Hugh Russell, who is shown as the owner on the 1877 map.

The age of the tree is not known, but it has stood and watched the history of what has happened in Alton for many years. It survived the widening and paving of the road, the building of sidewalks and the utilities that are visible at its base. Perhaps it even survived the big flood. Many who live in Alton are proud of this tree, their 'constant'.

Species: Lilac and Crab Apple
Location: South of High Point on Main St., Alton
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

The 1877 map of the Alton area shows 3rd line, now known as Main Street, as a straight road. The bends were added at a later date to ensure those travelling it could easily negotiate the hills.

High Point Sideroad and Main Street intersect on top of a hill. As one travels south towards Alton, there is a thick mature lilac hedge, approximately 200 metres long on the west side of the road, that takes one's breath away when it flowers in spring. The very essence of the month of May is the scent of these fragrant flowers.

The lilacs border vacant land, which nature is slowly reclaiming. A neighbour who lives north of this property told us that when he moved there in 1972 the lilacs were already a good size. At that time and for a few years thereafter, the land was used as a pasture for cattle. Since then the old building foundations located on the land have been allowed to 'return to nature' as the lilacs have spread over a good portion of the property and grown substantially larger.

We are grateful to both the early residents who planted such fragrant flora along the road for all to enjoy and the subsequent property owners for not cutting them down.

Interspersed with the lilacs are some old crab apple trees. This is a spectacular example of one on the east side of the road.

Species: Sugar Maples
Location: Dodds Farm
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

On May 28th, 1830 the Crown gave a patent to Canada Company for 100 acres on the west half of Lot 16, Concession 2 EHS in the Township of Caledon. This parcel of land was sold to William Dodds in November 1834. William had immigrated from Ireland in 1832 together with his four brothers. Four of the Dodds boys married four sisters. The fifth brother decided to not marry the fifth sister and married a Quaker girl from the Bolton area instead. The family has farmed this parcel of land since 1834.

William built the original family home on this property abutting the first fence line north of Charleston, as it was close to a water source. Some time later a second home was built just east of the existing house, circa 1919. The existing home was built using rough sawn timber from a Beechgrove property that the family had purchased around that same time. The hollow cement bricks for the walls were made on site. Cement tile was placed all around the house for drainage - this was considered a new innovation at the time.

William's son, Irwin, was born on the farm around 1850 and at age 16 was involved in the Fenian Raids. He was attached to the Alton Company and they marched to Bolton one night to join up with other forces. Irwin took over the farm about 1880 and had five children. The boys, Cecil and Bill, took over the farm in the early 1920s and continued to farm until they both passed on. Bill's son, William James Irwin (Jim), has worked the land since he was young and continues to successfully crop the farm. Jim tells us that the ground where the original home stood remains quite moist confirming the existence of a water source.

Jim recalls a story about how his grandfather and father (a young boy at the time), transplanted maples from the west side of Highway 10/Beechgrove and planted them around the farmhouse, around the original orchard, along the driveway and along the property perimeter of both Charleston and Kennedy Roads using horse and wagon in the early 1900s. When the original hydro lines installed along the roadside in 1948 were replaced, they were relocated further into the farm field to avoid the roadside trees. Bell cables buried along the tree line, ditching by the region, salting of the roads and the massive 1998 ice storm damage led to the demise of most of the perimeter trees and damaged many along the driveway and around the home.

Although damaged, the remaining trees continue to provide shade in the summer and splendid colour in the fall. The winter scape provides a stark contrast against the blue sky. In the fence line along the farm's perimeter, many stumps remain as a tribute and reminder of the hard work the Dodds family have given this land for almost 180 years.

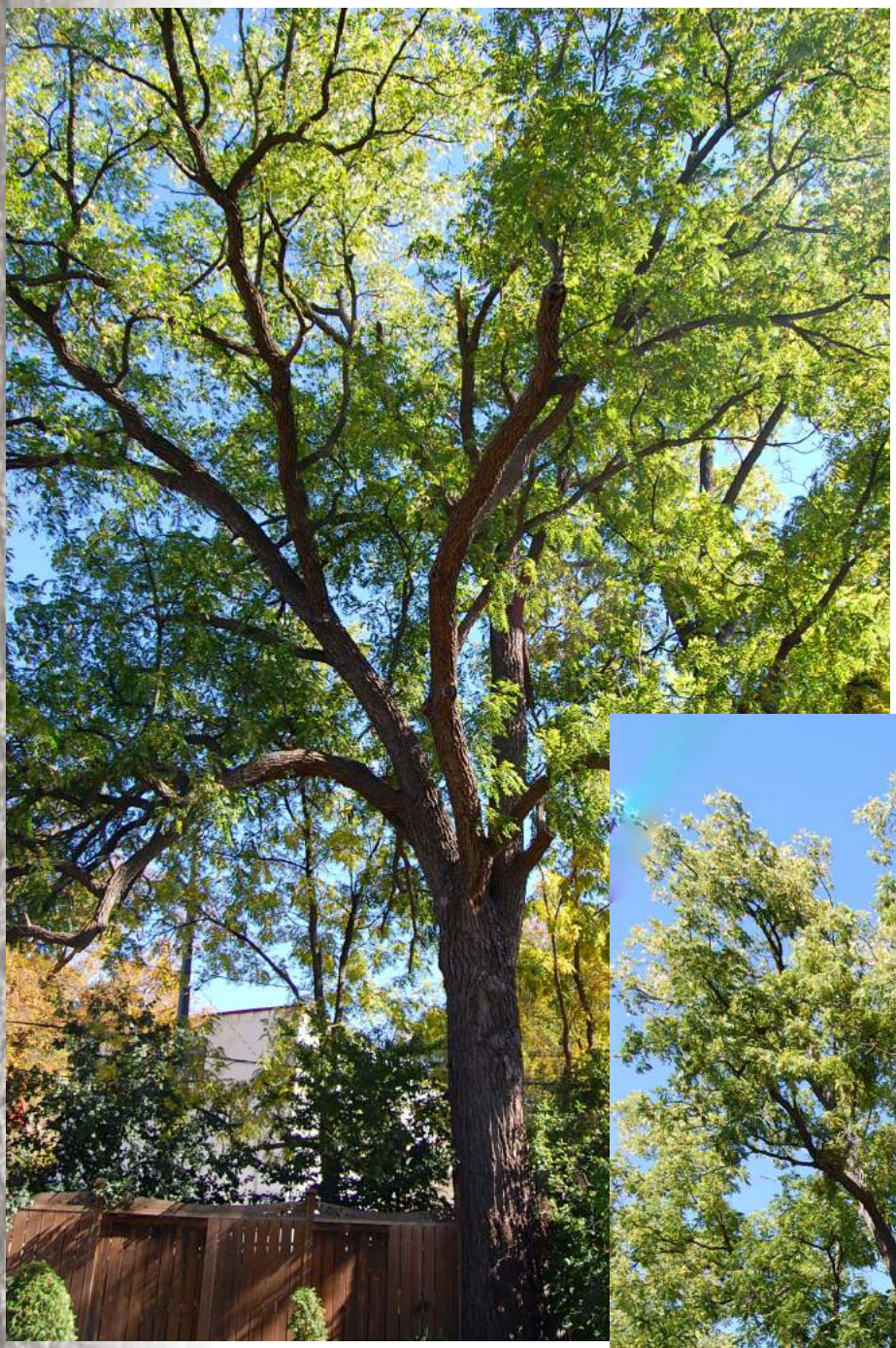
Species: Black Walnut
Location: 45 Nancy Street, Bolton
Nominated by: Heritage Caledon

In 1877, Bolton was a vibrant, prosperous and growing community. Residential subdivisions were being built, which included Nancy Street. This home was built in 1885 by Joseph Watson and originally anchored the south end of the block between King and Elizabeth Streets. George Watson was a prominent builder at the time and constructed many of Bolton's business establishments, churches and homes during the late 19th century. This particular home was built for his brother Joseph, a carpenter and retired farmer.

The home passed from Joseph to his daughter Bertha, who lived there for a number of years. The rear of the property on Queen was sold in 1908 and the property was further subdivided and another portion sold in 1945. The Watsons finally sold their family home to the Cooks in 1959, and it was sold to the current owners in 1963.

The home was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by Heritage Caledon in 2007 and a partial excerpt from that report praises the exquisite architecture: "The Joseph Watson house is an example of High Victorian Gothic architecture, characterized by its two-storeys, L-plan, gable roof line with decorative fretwork trim, projecting bay windows, front and rear porches and extensive use of dichromatic brick."

There are a number of mature trees that embrace the property and mark the boundaries of the lot. Magnificent, tall, and healthy walnut trees grace both the front and back yards. The trees at the front are part of a row that extend north on Nancy Street. Two large trees at the rear of the property are visible from the corner of Queen and Elizabeth Streets. No one is sure when the trees were planted, but we are told that they were sold to the property owners by a salesman, who carried the seedlings in his saddlebags.



MAXIMUM
40